

cluding the establishment of branches in various geographic locations throughout the State.

2. The development of a system of state colleges by continuing the program at Morgan and the conversion of institutions hitherto primarily engaged in the training of teachers in full-fledged colleges of the arts and sciences.

3. The advancement of the system of community colleges, with local initiative and support supplemented by assistance from the state government.

The University of Maryland, in College Park, Baltimore and the branches to be built, is a sort of nucleus, or pivot, in a system that is to be somewhat decentralized. This entails a sizeable expansion of the program at College Park and in the professional schools situated in Baltimore, as well as the establishment of the University's branches which I have mentioned.

We are experiencing now an unprecedented increase in college enrollments, and there is every indication that enrollment demands will continue to push upward in the foreseeable future. Moreover, it is the unvarying opinion of those who are knowledgeable in the field that public institutions of higher learning will be called upon to bear the brunt of these increasing requirements. Although the state colleges and community colleges will play important parts in overall program, it is obvious that a substantial enlargement of the University itself will be needed if we are to meet our obligations to provide educational opportunities for the people.

First steps already have been taken for the conversion of the teachers colleges into liberal arts colleges. The General Assembly this year, you will recall, enacted legislation changing the names of the five colleges, placing them under a single board of trustees and in general setting up the machinery for broadening their spheres in compliance with the Curlett Commission recommendations. Although quite obviously these colleges have not as yet attained full status in liberal arts education, they are well under way on that course and we may expect that these objectives will be reached within the next few years.

Regarding the community, or junior colleges, I would remind you that in 1955 another Commission studying higher education (The Pullen Commission) recommended strongly that these colleges be made an integral part of the State's overall educational program. Dr. James B. Conant, the world renowned authority on education and a member of the Commission, wrote at the time: